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Message Text

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14
ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 FEA-01 /093 W
---------- 083889
P R 020630Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4010
INFO AMEMBASSY DOHA 323
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0542

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : PORG, PFOR, TC
SUBJECT : MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: UAEG HANDLING OF MULTILATERAL ISSUES

1. FOLLOWING ARE RESPONSES TO QUESTIONNAIRE CONTAINED PARA 7 REF A WITH REPLIES KEYED TO LETTERED SUBPARAS THEREOF.
(A) UAEG INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES IN MULTILATERAL FORA CONCENTRATE MORE ON FORM THAN SUBSTANCE, I.E. THIS GOVERNEMENT IS MORE INTERESTED IN ITS IMAGE AS RESPONSIBLE (BUT NON-CONTROVERSIAL) MEMBER OF COMMUNITY OF NATIONS THAN IT IS IN MOST OF ISSUES DISCUSSED BY THAT COMMUNITY IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL BODIES. CONSISTENT WITH THIS POSITION UAEG IS MEMBER OF NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY JOIN MORE (IT RECENTLY ANNOUNCED WITH CONSIDERABLE PRIDE ITS APPROVAL FOR MEMBERSHIP IN IAEA, AN ORGANIZATION GENERALLY REMOTE FROM BOTH THE EXPERTISE AND INTERESTS PREVELANT HERE). AT PRESENT REPRESENTATION AT MANY OF
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THESE ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR SESSIONS IS VERY THIN BUT

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THAT TOO WILL INCREASE WITH GROWTH OF STILL FLEDGLING UAE FOREIGN SERVICE. PRIMARY EXCEPTIONS TO PREOCCUPATION WITH IMAGE RATHER THAN SUBSTANCE ARE (I) ARAB-ISRAEL ISSUES AND (II) OPEC/ENERGY RELATED ITEMS. IN BOTH CASES, HOWEVER, UAE IS FOLLOWER, NOT A LEADER AND, GENERALLY, INITIATIVES ARE NOT TAKEN. WITH REGARD TO CANDIDATES FOR SENIOR OFFICE IN MULTILATERAL BODIES, UAEG WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY WELCOME RESULTING PRESTIGE, BUT AT MOMENT HUMAN INFRASTRUCTURE IS SO THIN IT CANNOT REASONABLY ASPIRE TO SUCH POSITIONS.

(B) ABU DHABI REFTEL DEALT AT SOME LENGTH WITH KEY ROLE OF ARAB CAUCUS IN TERMS UAE POSITION ON ISSUES ON MULTILATERAL FORA. UAE IS DEFINITELY NOT LEADER WITHIN THAT CAUCUS AND IS VERY MUCH IN POSITION OF FEELING RATHER THAN EXERTING PRESSURE.

(C) UAE GIVES GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS IN ADVANCE TO ITS DELEGATIONS WHICH IN ALMOST ALL CASES WILL INCLUDE AT LEAST SOME PERSONNEL FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY HEADQUARTERS ITSELF. IT IS OUR EXPERIENCE THAT ONGOING REPORTING, CONSULTATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS ARE OFTEN CONDUCTED BY PHONE, E.G. DURING GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSIONS. WHEN LOCALES ARE MORE REMOTE, E.G. LIMA, AND PARTICULARLY IF SENIOR MAN IS IN CHARGE, DELEGATION LIKELY REMAIN VERY MUCH ON ITS OWN.

(D) PERM REPS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION LACK INDEPENDENT POLITICAL POWER, BUT TENDENCY RUN WITH ARAB PACK CAN PRODUCE DIFFICULTIES OF ITS OWN IN TERMS OF CONTROL UNLESS INSTRUCTIONS ARE VERY PRECISE.

(E) AGAIN ABU DHABI REFTEL DEALT IN SOME DETAIL WITH UAEG RESPONSE TO OUR APPROACHES ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES. ONE SHOULD ADD THAT OUR PRESENTATIONS ARE ALMOST INVARIABLY WELL RECEIVED AND PROBABLY APPRECIATED AT LEAST IN TERMS OF INFORMATIONAL CONTENT. BUT POSITIVE RECEPTION IS ONE THING, POSITIVE ACTION IS ANOTHER. UAEG HAS NOT TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE SOLICITED USG SUPPORT ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES OR PROBLEMS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ABUDH00542
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760078-0732
From: ABU DHABI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603106/aaaadpfk.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <30 MAR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: UAEG HANDLING OF MULTILATERAL ISSUES
TAGS: PORG, PFOR, TC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006